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MEAT PRODUCTION IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES IN 1947

Meat production in the principal livestock countries of the world, exclusive of the Far East, in 1947 was estimated at 65.9 billion pounds, according to the most recently available data. This is above the preceding year by 4.0 billion pounds or 6 percent, and is within 0.4 billion pounds of the 1934-38 five-year average of 66.3 billion pounds.

The most significant increases in meat production in 1947 occurred in the continental countries of Europe. Last summer's drought, together with an already critical feed situation in western and central Europe, resulted in a considerable liquidation of livestock and a substantial increase in meat production. Conversely, meat production in some of the eastern and southeastern countries of Europe was augmented by relatively good feed grain crops in 1947.

MEAT 1: Summary of world production, 1947, with comparisons

Area	: Average	:	1946	:	Preliminary
	: 1934-38	:		:	1947
	: Million	:	Million	:	Million
	: pounds	:	pounds	:	pounds
North America <u>2</u> /.....	: 18,600	:	26,500	:	26,700
South America.....	: 8,200	:	8,900	:	9,500
Europe.....	: 27,200	:	<u>3</u> /16,000	:	<u>3</u> /18,200
Soviet Union.....	: 7,292	:	<u>4</u> /	:	<u>4</u> /
Middle East <u>5</u> /.....	: 1,200	:	<u>4</u> /	:	<u>4</u> /
Union of South Africa	: 671	:	883	:	880
Oceania.....	: 3,118	:	3,112	:	3,242
Total <u>6</u> /.....	: 66,300	:	61,900	:	65,900

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1/ Carcass meat. Excludes offal, lard, rabbit and poultry meat.

2/ Includes United States, Canada, Mexico and Cuba.

3/ Not strictly comparable with prewar, due to territorial changes.

4/ Estimates included in the total.

5/ Includes Egypt, Turkey, Iraq and Iran.

6/ Total includes 41 countries, which in 1938 produced 66.3 billion pounds of meat out of an estimated total of 70 billion pounds for 67 countries, excluding China.

MEAT 1: Preliminary estimate of production of beef and veal, pork, mutton and lamb, and total meats in specified countries in 1947, with comparisons.

Country	Beef and Veal				Pork (excluding lard)				Mutton and Lamb				Total 2/			
	Average 1934-36	1946	Average 1934-36	1946	Average 1934-36	1946	Average 1934-36	1946	Average 1934-36	1946	Average 1934-36	1946	Average 1934-36	1946	Average 1934-36	1946
North America:																
Canada 3/.....	735	1,185	1,089	621	994	912	61	67	1,417	2,250	2,128					
Mexico.....	492	614	595	167	243	255	14	18	698	902	904					
United States 3/.....	7,974	10,618	12,000	7,337	11,175	10,500	671	800	16,182	22,961	23,300					
Otha 4/.....	269	311	315	38	38	43	2	2	309	351	360					
Europe:																
Austria 5/.....	231	145	170	359	150	210	18	5/	617	300	390					
Belgium.....	304	179	224	367	210	225	7	10	693	420	496					
Bulgaria 1/.....	105	63	85	134	83	95	68	51	80	212	280					
Czechoslovakia 6/.....	401	377	520	480	300	424	6	3	912	703	975					
Denmark.....	316	365	430	675	432	449	10	10	1,006	629	905					
Eire.....	130	150	180	196	135	135	45	9	556	380	360					
Finland.....	139	86	95	104	56	88	11	12	254	160	220					
France.....	1,947	1,654	1,800	1,419	859	1,040	218	5/	3,510	2,701	3,115					
Germany 9/.....	1,300	850	950	2,140	710	790	40	38	430	1,675	1,790					
Greece 5/.....	32	25	30	27	25	30	136	5/	110	155	170					
Hungary 10/.....	121	479	545	386	475	585	108	5/11/	62	538	500					
Italy.....	732	11/	11/	675	11/	11/	20	9	1,242	1,542	1,553					
Netherlands.....	308	136	245	548	172	200	32	31	894	386	467					
Norway 11/.....	94	108	95	89	44	44	3	5	223	195	1/8					
Poland 12/.....	528	195	310	1,032	495	780	22	10	1,598	1,05	1,105					
Romania.....	247	273	308	222	309	308	8	5/	651	622	662					
Sweden 3/.....	292	213	308	327	309	308	4	10	9	649	662					
Switzerland.....	217	154	190	190	94	103	3	3	419	259	298					
United Kingdom.....	1,380	1,281	1,143	890	367	300	341	257	2,125	1,989	1,700					
Yugoslavia.....	243	—	—	476	—	6/	147	—	888	—	—					
Soviet Union 13/.....	2,835	—	—	3,459	—	—	918	—	7,292	—	—					
South America:																
Argentina 14/.....	3,838	3,886	4,630	243	421	270	742	780	4,459	5,024	5,680					
Brazil 15/.....	1,621	1,622	1,700	487	507	510	49	50	2,331	2,804	2,285					
Chile.....	235	285	261	39	53	52	103	85	319	442	400					
Paraguay.....	87	200	220	—	—	—	—	—	87	200	220					
Uruguay 15/.....	495	418	342	14	31	23	62	45	571	500	410					
Africa:																
Union of South Africa.....	421	627	635	64	62	70	186	5/	194	671	683					
Oceania:																
Australia.....	111/1,190	981	1,102	11/	195	240	206	11/	709	716	718					
New Zealand 16/.....	365	395	428	106	83	85	553	697	703	1,024	1,175					

1/ Carcass meat basis - excludes edible offal and lard. 2/ Includes other meats, such as horse and goat meat. 3/ Averages for years 1935-1939. 4/ Averages for years 1935-1940. 5/ Averages for years 1935-1937. 6/ Includes goat meat. 7/ Averages for years 1935-1938. Includes Southern Province in 1946 and 1947. 8/ Year 1936 only for prewar. Excludes Sub-Guyana. 9/ Borneo (U.S. - U.K.) only. 10/ Averages for years 1936-1938. 11/ Year beginning July 1. 12/ Data for 1946 and 1947 relate to territory within present boundaries. 13/ Year 1938. 14/ Excludes farm production of pork for farm consumption. 15/ Excludes farm production. 16/ Year beginning June 1 for years 1936-1938, year beginning October 1 of preceding year for years 1946 and 1947.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated from official statistics, United States Foreign Service reports, and other information. Data relate to prewar boundaries, unless otherwise noted.

Moderate production gains also took place in the United States, Argentina, Brazil, Australia, New Zealand and the Soviet Union. In the United States, short feed supplies, strong demand and high prices for meat combined to encourage large marketings of meat animals. The increase in 1947 meat output was accompanied by a 2.6 million decrease in cattle inventories and declines in nearly all other categories of meat animals. In Argentina, and to a lesser degree in Brazil, higher prices due to strong domestic and export demand increased marketings and total meat output in 1947 compared with 1946. Australia and New Zealand, because of improved grazing conditions and higher export prices, also increased their production. Favorable crop conditions in the Soviet Union during 1947 were reflected in an increased meat output for the year.

Decreases in meat production were evidenced principally in the United Kingdom, Eire, Norway, Chile, Uruguay and Canada. In the United Kingdom, a general shortage of feed and reduced numbers of breeding animals, particularly of sheep and hogs, have led to a further decrease in meat output. Production in Eire also declined in 1947, but continued above the 1934-38 average. Norway's output was about one-fifth below the five-year average.

Meat production in Canada was below that of 1946, but somewhat above prewar. High feed costs during the latter part of the year and packing-house strikes in the fall delayed marketings and reduced the 1947 production. In Chile meat output declined, due to increasing prices and lack of foreign exchange for the importation of cattle. In Uruguay, slaughter was down because of heavy losses of calves in the 1943 drought which would have been marketed as four-year olds in 1947.

The large meat production in 1947 has tended to retard the rebuilding of livestock herds and flocks, and has generally slowed up restoration of numbers to prewar levels in many countries. The increase in population in many countries has made a heavy drain on the livestock resources. For the livestock industry to recover its prewar status and meet normal consumption requirements, most countries will require better-than-average crop and pasture conditions and supplies of feed for several years to come.

Meat production in the United States in 1947 was 23.3 billion pounds, the fourth largest on record. Beef and veal output totaled 12 billion pounds, or about 51.5 percent of the total meat production; pork, excluding lard, about 10.5 billion pounds or about 45 percent, and mutton and lamb 800 million pounds, or about 3.5 percent. Production of beef and veal increased moderately in 1947, while production of pork, mutton and lamb, decreased from a year earlier. Although mutton and lamb were slightly below the 1935-39 average, beef and veal and pork, exclusive of lard, were around 50 and 43 percent above the 5-year prewar average.

The high prices received by farmers for cattle, hogs and sheep in 1947, the continuing strong consumer demand for meat, and the

shortage of feed, particularly corn, combined to encourage large marketings of meat animals. This was accompanied by a reduction of 2.6 million head in the cattle inventories, and declines in nearly all categories of meat animals at the beginning of 1948. Cattle and hog numbers, however, are above the 1936-40 average, but sheep numbers are below.

Meat output from cattle, hogs and sheep in Canada during 1947 is reported at 2.1 billion pounds, a drop of over 100 million pounds from the revised estimate of the preceding year. Beef and veal production decreased about 9 percent from that of the previous year, but is still more than 48 percent larger than the 5-year average. Although pork, excluding lard in 1947, declined about 2 percent, it is about one-half larger than the 1935-39 average production, and mutton and lamb are still slightly larger than the prewar average. Beef, veal and pork production continues downward trends that began in 1945, while mutton and lamb production appears to fluctuate from year to year.

Higher economic returns in alternative farm enterprises caused farmers to shift from raising of hogs, and in other instances to reduction of hog numbers in 1945 and 1946. For practically the same reasons, cattle numbers began to decline in 1946, and the trend has continued downward ever since. The higher feed costs during the latter part of the year and the packing-house strikes in the fall delayed marketings and reduced the 1947 meat production.

In 1947, meat production in Mexico, based on inspected slaughter, remained near the 1946 level and about 30 percent above the 5-year average (1934-38). The decrease in beef and veal production in 1947 was more than offset by the 9 percent increase in pork output. Nevertheless, beef and veal production in 1947 was believed to be about 20 percent larger than the 1934-38 average, while pork output almost doubled prewar, and mutton and lamb production continued at a relatively low level. Exports of live cattle from Mexico to the United States continued to be prohibited in 1947 as the result of the 1946 outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease.

Cuba's meat production in 1947 was somewhat larger than that of 1946. The output of beef and veal and pork increased over the preceding year, and these meats were also about 17 and 13 percent higher, respectively, than the 1936-40 average. Better grazing conditions for cattle and more abundant supplies of palmiche nuts for hog feed encouraged heavier marketing. Heavy slaughter in 1947 has decreased cattle numbers still further.

Meat production in Europe, including the Balkan countries but exclusive of the Soviet Union, was believed to have increased in all countries except the United Kingdom, Eire and Norway. An already critical feed situation in western and central European countries was further deteriorated by last summer's drought. Consequently, more than seasonal slaughter of livestock took place to substantially increase the 1947 meat production. In this group of countries, Sweden was the only country to exceed its prewar production, while the others were

generally considerably below their respective prewar levels. Beef and veal production in Denmark, Eire and Sweden, however, exceeded that of prewar, but pork production was considerably below prewar in all three countries.

The United Kingdom, the world's largest importer of meat, produced 14 percent less meat in 1947 than in 1946 and only about 62 percent as much as in prewar. Meat production received a sharp setback from the beginning of the war, primarily because milk production was given preference, and dairy cattle were given priority on feed grains during and after the war.

In Denmark, the total meat production in 1947 was nine-tenths of the prewar output. Beef and veal production continued to increase and even exceeded the 1934-38 average by 36 percent, while bacon, normally one of the principal exports, was one-third below the prewar.

In France, meat production in 1947 increased about 15 percent over the preceding year, but output was still 15 percent below the 1934-38 average. During the summer, the severe drought reduced feed resources and forced farmers to liquidate considerable numbers of livestock. Although livestock weights were lower than prewar, it was believed that French cities received relatively larger quantities of meat than in prewar.

In 1947, meat production in Belgium and the Netherlands increased moderately, but the former was only three-fourths and the latter about one-half of the 1934-38 average. Inadequate feed supplies during and since the war have kept livestock numbers in both countries from making as rapid a recovery as normally expected. Meat production in Bizonial Germany, was only about 50 percent of prewar. This apparently was in line with the policy to keep numbers adjusted to available feed supplies.

Switzerland in 1947 evidenced a slight increase in meat production over a year earlier, but output was only about 70 percent of the 1934-38 average. Difficulties encountered in obtaining feed during the 1946-47 winter, together with last year's drought, and subsequent shortage of domestic feeds, led to heavy slaughter of livestock and reduction in numbers.

Although meat production in Italy increased moderately in 1947, the total output was almost 20 percent below that of prewar. Shortage of forage crops and the impossibility of importing feed concentrates retarded the restoration of livestock numbers, and generally slowed up recovery to prewar levels.

Relatively good grain crops were reflected in increased meat output in several eastern European and Balkan countries. Meat production in all of the southeastern European and Balkan countries increased over the preceding year of 1946, but none reached their respective average for the 1934-38 period, according to the limited information available. However, it is generally believed that except for Greece, livestock numbers in this area increased in 1947.

Meat output in Czechoslovakia in 1947 increased considerably over a year earlier and was about 7 percent larger than the prewar production. Shortage of feed, together with a relatively high incidence of livestock diseases, caused considerable liquidation of livestock. Poland also increased its production over 1946 but was still about one-third below prewar. Shortage of feed and diseases have checked recovery of cattle numbers, but hog production apparently has improved.

In the Soviet Union, meat production was believed to have increased moderately over that of 1946, but was still below the prewar average. Feedgrain crops were believed to be relatively good and livestock numbers apparently increased in 1947.

Production of meat in Argentina was estimated at about 5.7 million pounds in 1947. This was about 13 percent larger than the preceding year, and more than 27 percent above the 1934-38 average. The 1947 output of beef and veal was not only around 20 percent greater than in 1946, but made up almost 82 percent of the total meat production in that country. Pork output, exclusive of lard, dropped nearly 36 percent in 1947, while mutton and lamb increased 5 percent. In both instances, pork, mutton and lamb are above the 5-year average.

The early announcement in the fall of 1946 of the possibility of a meat price adjustment, together with relatively good growing conditions and a strong domestic demand for meat, particularly beef, encouraged large marketings and heavy slaughterings in 1947. Pork production apparently fell off because of lack of satisfactory market outlets since pork was not included in the Anglo-Argentine Agreement. Cattle and sheep numbers in 1947 showed moderate gains, while hog numbers dropped off considerably.

Although unprecedented heavy cattle slaughter occurred in Brazil, only a slight increase was reflected in the total meat production for 1947. Beef and veal output, however, was 7 percent below that of prewar. Pork, mutton and lamb, showed a small increase from 1946. Pork production, however, was still 5 percent above prewar, while mutton and lamb production was over 3 times as large. Removal of meat rationing in 1947 increased cattle slaughter and cattle numbers were decreased by a million head. On the other hand, hog and sheep numbers increased to continue the upward trends.

Meat production in Chile declined 10 percent in 1947 from a year earlier. This output, however, exceeded the 1934-38 average by nearly 15 percent. Beef and veal constitutes about 65 percent of the total meat supply, while mutton and lamb, the principal meat export, made up about 21 percent. All three types exceeded prewar output.

Beef and veal production, the principal type of meat in Paraguay, showed increases in 1946 and 1947, and exceeded the 1934-38 average. All of the principal types of meat production in Uruguay decreased in 1947, and the total output was about one-fourth below that of prewar.

In the Union of South Africa, beef and veal production increased slightly over the 1946 output and was about 30 percent above the 1934-38 average. Pork production, exclusive of lard, remained relatively constant and showed only a small increase over the previous year and prewar. Mutton and lamb production, on the other hand, were below last year, but practically at the prewar level. Gradual improvement in weather and pasture conditions since 1946 enabled cattle to practically hold their own. But pork production was held back by the slow recovery in feed grains, while sheep slaughter was kept down by high prices for wool, resulting in farmers holding back sheep for breeding.

In Australia, meat production in 1947 showed a moderate increase over the preceding year, but was still slightly under the 1934-38 average. Although grazing conditions were improved and wool prices are higher, the increase was to some degree due to the holdover of cattle as a result of the 16-week strike in the Queensland meatworks in the latter part of 1946.

Beef and veal production showed the largest increase over 1946, but was still some 80 million pounds below the 5-year average. Mutton and lamb, however, showed a small increase in 1947 and continued to be above the 1934-38 average. Pork output, on the other hand, fell below the preceding year of 1946 and was slightly above the prewar average.

Restocking of cattle and sheep appears to have been limited by lack of suitable breeding lines and high prices. Because of the high wool prices and an abundance of feed, however, there was some retention and buying of sheep for restocking. This reduced the number available for slaughter. There was also a strong demand for store cattle. Cattle losses, as a result of the drought, not only retarded expansion, but were expected to offset breeding operations for several years. High costs of production were further deterrents to large pork output in 1947.

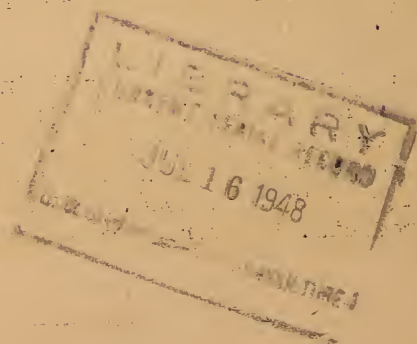
In 1947, the meat output in New Zealand was 3.5 percent larger than in the preceding year, and about 19 percent above the 1936-38 average. Although an increase occurred in all types of meat, beef and veal and mutton and lamb, production exceeded the prewar average and pork dropped below that level.

As a result of good pasture growth in 1947, sheep and cattle went to the freezing works at heavier weights and in a better condition than any other time during the last 5 years. Hogs, particularly baconers and porkers, were averaging about 2 pounds heavier, and the proportion of baconers were larger than in 1946. Higher prices for dairy products including by-products, however, were not conducive to expansion of the hog industry.

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This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report, the Committee was composed of Joseph A. Becker, Chairman, C. M. Purves, Elmer A. Reese, Hazel B. Kefauver, Lois B. Bacon, Karen J. Friedmann, and Constance H. Farnworth.

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